

FOR BEGINNERS & INTERMEDIATE

ENGLISH SPEAKING COURSE

LEARN HOW TO SPEAK ENGLISH
QUICKLY & EASILY



VIDEOS
PHRASES
QUESTIONS
VOCABULARY
CONVERSATION
PRONUNCIATION
LEARN IN YOUR SLEEP!

RICH JOHNSON

ENGLISHWITHRICH.COM

ENGLISH SPEAKING COURSE

FOR BEGINNERS & INTERMEDIATE

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WANT FREE STUFF?

MEET RICH



Hello, my name is Rich.

I'm from the United States, but I live in Vancouver, Canada.

I was an environmental scientist in Alaska before I became an English teacher.

I have taught English to thousands of students from over 65 different countries.

Now I would like to teach you!

My goal is simple: I want to help you speak English like a native.

So, let's get started!

FREE COURSE

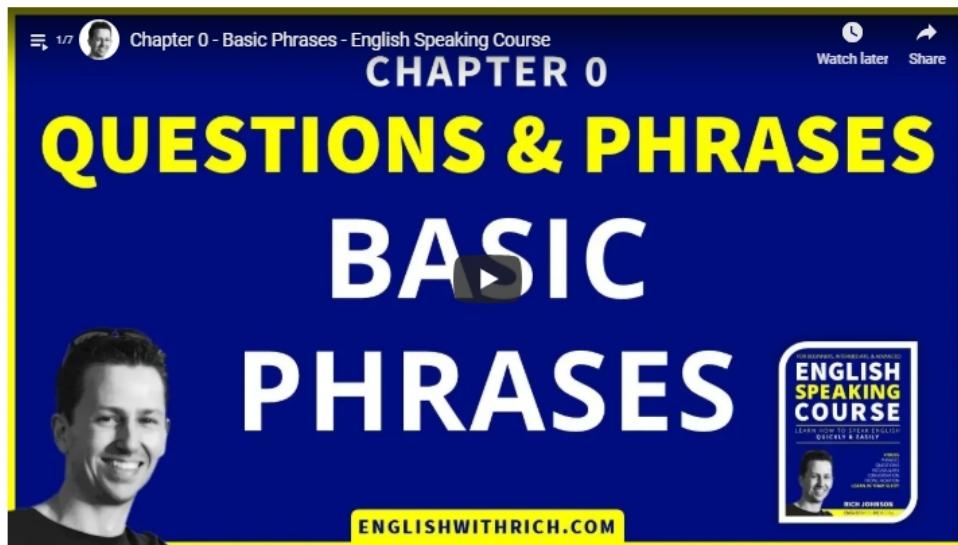
The videos for this book are far more important than the book itself. They will help you to speak fluent English like a native.

It's important to watch the videos for **at least 5 minutes every day**. You need to hear and speak English in order to improve, and the videos will help you do that.

The course has all the videos for this book, so you can follow along and practice your speaking, listening, and pronunciation. Click the link below to access your course.

FREE Course

VIDEO
Playlist



YOUTUBE

There are hundreds of YouTube channels that will help you to *learn* English, but there are only a few that will help you to *speak* English like a native.

[If you want to learn how to speak American English, then subscribe to my YouTube channel.](#)



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Retain what you've learned with sleep videos!



ENGLISH BASIC S

VIDEOS

I'm assuming most students know the very basics of English, but just in case, I've included videos to cover them. Even if you know these topics, they're still good for practicing your pronunciation, especially the Ordinal Numbers 1st – 31st video, which will help you to pronounce “*th*”.

The Alphabet

Cardinal Numbers 1 – 100

Ordinal Numbers 1st – 31st

Days of the week

Months of the year

0

BASIC PHRASES

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

General

Yes.

No.

OK.

Please.

I'm sorry.

Thank you.

You're welcome.

No worries.

Excuse me.

I'm hungry.

I'm thirsty.

Cheers!

Who?

What?

When?

Where?

Why?

How?

Where is it?

What is it?

How much is it?

I'm sorry, what?

Emergencies

Help!

Fire!

Look out!

Call the police!

Leave me alone!

I'm hurt.

I'm sick.

I need help.

I need a doctor.

I need a dentist.

I need the police.

Where is the hospital?

May I use your phone?

1

HELLO

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

Greetings

Hello.

Good morning.

Good afternoon.

Good evening.

Informal

Hi.

Hey.

What's up!

How's it going?

- It's going.
- It's going well.
- It's going good.

Common Questions

How are you?

- I'm good.
- I'm great.
- I'm fantastic, thanks.

And you?

How about you?

What's your name?

(*Your name*).

- Seth.
- Henry.

I'm + (*name*).

- I'm Seth.
- I'm Henry.

My name's + (*name*).

- My name's Seth.
- My name's Henry.

Where are you from?

I'm from + (*location*).

- I'm from Italy.
- I'm from Orlando.

Whereabouts?

What brings you to + (*location*)?

What bring you to New York?

- I'm here on vacation.
- I'm here on business.

How long are you here for?

I'm here for + (*duration*).

- I'm here for three months.
- I'm here for two weeks.
- I'm just here for two days.

Introductions

Let me introduce you to my + (*noun*).

- Let me introduce you to my friend.
- Let me introduce you to my co-workers.
- Let me introduce you to my husband.

Let me introduce you to + (*name*).

- Let me introduce you to Peter.
- Let me introduce you to my boss, Alan.
- Let me introduce you to Alan, my boss.

This is + (*name*).

- This is Chris.
- This is Henry.

It's nice to meet you.

It's nice to meet you, too.

Have you met + (*name*)?

Have you met Peter?

- Yes, we've met.
- No, we haven't.
- Yes, I have.
- No, I haven't.

CONVERSATION

Meeting Someone New

Hello!

Hi!

How are you?

I'm good. And you?

I'm good. Beautiful weather today.

Yeah, it's much better than yesterday. I'm still not used to the rain.

Oh, are you not from here?

No.

Where are you from?

I'm from the US.

Whereabouts?

Los Angeles.

What brings you to Canada?

I'm here on vacation.

Oh, great! How long are you here for?

Just 4 days.

That's plenty of time to explore the city. Hopefully the weather stays like this for the rest of your trip. (turns to walk away) Enjoy your stay!

Thanks. Take care.

2

CATCHING UP WITH A FRIEND

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

Long time no see!

It's so good to see you.

It's so good to see you, too.

I was just thinking about you.

How have you been?

I've been _____.

- I've been good.
- I've been really busy.
- I've been better.

How's life?

- It's good.
- Life's good.
- Life's great.

What have you been up to?

- Not much.
- Same old, same old.
- I've been working on a new project.

How is your day going?

- Not so well.
- It's going well.
- It's going really well.

How is your family doing?

- My family is doing well, thanks for asking.
- They are doing well.
- Everyone is doing well except for my brother. He has been feeling very sick lately.

Are you still working at the same place?

- Yes, I am.
- No, I am working at Google now.

How is work going?

- It's going.
- It's going alright. It has been really stressful.
- It's going well.

Anything new happen lately?

Has anything new happened lately?

- Nah, same old, same old.
- Yeah, my daughter got a new job.

How was your day?

It was _____.

- It was good.
- It was busy.

How was your weekend?

It was _____.

- It was relaxing.
- It was great.

What did you do?

- Nothing special.
- I had to work.
- I went to my parent's house for dinner.

CONVERSATION

Catching Up with a Friend

Hey, how are you?

I'm good. How have you been?

I've been well, thanks. How's your family doing?

They're doing well! Jack just graduated high school, and Lindsay just bought her first car.

That's exciting! I'm happy for them.

Thanks! How's Haley doing?

She's doing great! She's been really busy at work.

Yeah, I imagine. She still works at the university, right?

Yep, she's still teaching there.

That's great. And what about you? What have you been up to?

Same old, same old. I've just been working a lot. How's your work going?

It's going great! I just got a promotion!

That's fantastic, congratulations!

Thank you! Yeah, I'm excited!

I have to run. Haley's waiting on me. It was really good seeing you again.

Yeah, it was good seeing you, too!

3

COMPREHENSION

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

General

I understand.

I don't understand.

Could you speak slower, please?

Could you repeat, please?

Could you say that again?

Could you write that down?

Could you type it?

Could you show me?

How do you spell it?

English isn't my native language.

I speak a little.

I don't speak + (*language*).

- I don't speak English.
- I don't speak Chinese.

How do you say _____ in English?

- How do you say *feliz* in English?
- How do you say *快乐* in English?

What do you mean?

I mean _____.

What does _____ mean?

What does feliz mean?

It means _____.

Do you speak + (*language*)?

- Do you speak English?
- Do you speak Japanese?
- Do you speak Portuguese?

Technical Difficulties

Present

There's a lot of background noise.

There's a lot of static.

The + (*what?*) + is cutting out.

- The internet connection is cutting out.
- The audio is cutting out.

(*Who?*) + can't see you.

- I can't see you.
- We can't see you.

(*Who?*) + can't hear you.

- I can't hear you.
- We can't hear you.

Could you try + (*gerund*) + _____?

- Could you try refreshing?
- Could you try turning off your camera?

Maybe we should reschedule.

Let's reschedule.

Past

The connection dropped.

The + (*what?*) + cut out.

- The audio cut out.
- The video cut out.

(*Who?*) + couldn't hear you.

- I couldn't hear you.
- We couldn't hear you.

Could you repeat that, please?

CONVERSATION

Teleconference - Technical Difficulties

Hello? Can you hear me OK?

Yes, I can hear you loud and clear.

Excellent. I don't have a lot of time, so let's jump into it. First, our sales have been slumping and we need...

I'm sorry. Could you speak slower, please? English isn't my native language.

Sure. Our sales have been slumping, and we need to figure out some ways to increase sales ASAP.

I'm sorry, what does ASAP mean?

It means as soon as possible.

Oh OK, yeah, we can think of some ways to increase sales.

Excellent. In addition, *****

I'm sorry, the audio cut out. Could you repeat, please?

I can't hear you. There's a lot of static. Could you try turning off your camera?

I still can't hear you. Maybe we should reschedule.

Yeah, let's reschedule. I'll send you an email.

4

WEATHER

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

It's + (*adjective*).

- It's rainy.
- It's snowy.

It's + (*adjective*) + day.

- It's a beautiful day.
- It's a rainy day.

It's + (*gerund*).

- It's raining.
- It's snowing.

What's the weather like?

It's _____.

- It's sunny and warm.
- It's raining.

What's the temperature?

It's + (*number*) + degrees + (*temperature scale*).

- It's 5 degrees Celsius.
- It's 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

What's the weather supposed to be like?

I don't know.

It's supposed to _____.

- It's supposed to rain today.
- It's supposed to be nice.
- It's supposed to clear up this afternoon.

What's the weather like in the summer?

It's _____.

- It's dry.
- It's humid.
- It's really hot.

What's the weather like in the winter?

- It's rainy during the winter.
- It snows a lot.
- It's wetter than the summer.

What's the average temperature?

It's + (usually / normally / typically) + around + (*number*) + degrees + (*temperature scale*).

- It's usually around 5 degrees Celsius.
- It's normally around 50 degrees Fahrenheit.
- It's typically around 30 degrees Celsius in the summer.

Is it dry or humid?

It's + (*condition*).

- It's dry.
- It's humid.

How humid does it get?

- In the summer, it's usually between 80 to 100%.
- During the rainy season, the humidity is very high.

Does it rain or snow?

- Sometimes it rains.
- Yeah, it rains a lot.
- No, it doesn't snow here.

What's the forecast for tomorrow?

I'm not sure.

It's supposed to _____.

- It's supposed to be nice all day tomorrow.
- It's supposed to rain tomorrow afternoon.

What's the weather supposed to be like this week?

It's supposed to _____.

- It's supposed to be nice all week.
- It's supposed to be really hot all week.

What was the weather like yesterday?

It was _____.

- It was cold all day.
- It was cloudy.

What was the weather like last week?

It + (*past tense verb*) + _____.

- It was beautiful all last week.
- It was cold all week.
- It snowed all week.

Last week, it + (*past tense verb*) + _____.

- Last week, it was nice.
- Last week, it rained almost every single day.

What was the temperature?

It was + (*number*) + degrees + (*temperature scale*).

- It was 9 degrees Celsius.
- It was 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

VOCABULARY

General

- sky
- climate
- temperature
- precipitation
- condensation
- humidity
- forecast
- water (*liquid*)
- ice (*solid*)
- water vapor (*gas*)
- sun
- sunshine

Condensation

- dew
- frost
- mist
- fog
- clouds

Precipitation

- raindrop
- rain
- freezing rain
- sleet
- snowflake
- snow
- rainbow
- double rainbow

Air Movement

- jet stream
- wind
- high-pressure
- low-pressure
- calm
- breeze

Direction

- north
- northeast
- east
- southeast
- south
- southwest
- west
- northwest

Describing Weather

- clear
- cloudy
- foggy
- harsh
- mild
- rainy
- snowy
- stormy
- sunny
- windy

Describing Temperature

- scorching
- extremely hot
- hot
- warm
- cool
- cold
- freezing

Indoor Temperature

- thermostat
- heat
- AC / air con / air conditioning
- fan

Describing Moisture

- dry
- humid
- dank (*cold and humid*)
- muggy (*warm and humid*)

Measurements

- feet

- inches
- kilometers
- meters
- centimeters
- millimeters

Seasons

- winter
- spring
- summer
- fall / autumn
- dry season
- wet season

Severe Weather

- storm
- strong / high wind
- dust storm
- snowstorm
- thunderstorm
- thunder
- lightning
- hail
- tornado
- tropical storm
- hurricane / cyclone / typhoon

Effects of Extreme Weather

- drought
- flooding
- wildfire
- storm surge
- power outage
- storm debris
- property damage

CONVERSATION

Vancouver Weather

What's the weather like there?

It's rainy most of the year.

Really? I thought it was always cold and snowy in Canada.

In some places, sure. But in Vancouver, the weather is pretty mild.

What's the weather like today?

It's cloudy and wet. It just rained this morning.

What's the temperature?

It's 9 or 10 degrees.

Celsius or Fahrenheit?

Celsius. We use Celsius in Canada and Fahrenheit in the US.

Ah, I didn't know that. I imagine the humidity is pretty high.

Yeah, it's about 70 – 80% right now.

What's the forecast for this coming week?

I think it's supposed to clear up. It might even be sunny for a few days.

What's the weather like in the summer?

It's usually pretty nice. There's a little rain, but it's usually sunny and relatively warm.

What's the average temperature in the summer?

It's normally between 20 - 25 degrees during the day and 14 – 18 degrees at night.

What about wintertime?

It's typically between 0 and 10 degrees.

Does it snow?

Maybe once or twice a year, but otherwise it just rains.

Does it storm a lot?

No, unfortunately. We never get any lightning or thunder.

Do you get any extreme weather like tornadoes or hurricanes?

No. The weather here is pretty mild and dank. I used to enjoy thunderstorms, windstorms, and tornadoes when I lived in Michigan.

I imagine flooding is a problem, and I bet you get some gorgeous rainbows.

Yeah, flooding can be an issue, but it's usually not that bad. I wish we got rainbows. I've hardly ever seen a rainbow here. It's quite depressing, actually.

What about the rest of Canada like Toronto?

It's colder in the winter and warmer in the summer in Toronto. In general, it's cold and snowy in the winter and warm and sunny in the summer. In some places, it can get down to -30 degrees not including the wind chill, which just makes it colder.

Interesting. I'm more inclined to moving to Vancouver. I like milder weather. Thanks for your help.

No worries. It was nice chatting with you.

5

FOOD

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

General

I'm hungry.

I'm thirsty.

I need to eat.

I just ate.

I ate too much.

I'm full.

I like + *(food item)*.

- I like steak and eggs.
- I like red wine.

I don't like + *(food item)*.

- I don't like spicy food.
- I don't like alcohol.

I love + *(food item)*.

- I love pasta.
- I love chocolate cake.

I hate + *(food item)*.

- I hate oily food.
- I hate hot peppers.

Are you hungry?

- No, I just ate.
- A little bit.
- I'm starving.

Are you thirsty?

- No, I just drank some coffee.
- Not really.
- Yes, I am very thirsty.

Do you want to go out to eat?

- No, I can't right now but thanks.
- Sure.

Are there any good restaurants nearby?

Unfortunately, no.

Yeah, there are a lot of good restaurants nearby.

Yeah, there's a _____.

- Yeah, there's a Mexican restaurant across the street.
- Yeah, there's an Italian restaurant called Gino's.

What do you usually eat?

I usually eat _____.

- I usually eat rice and beans.
- I usually eat a sandwich for lunch and pasta for dinner.

What kind of food do you like?

I like _____.

- I like Italian food.
- I like fast food.
- I like gumbo.

What's + (*name of food you don't know*)?

What's gumbo?

It's a/an + (*description*).

- It's an American dish from southern Louisiana.

- It's a stew that you usually eat with rice.

What are the ingredients?

What's in it?

- Vegetables, meat, and seafood.
- Shrimp, sausage, vegetables, and rice.

Do you like spicy food?

- No, I hate spicy food.
- Yeah, it's OK.
- I love spicy food!

Have you ever had + (*food item*)?

Have you ever had sushi before?

- No, I haven't.
- Yes, I have.

Do you like beer or wine?

- I don't really like drinking.
- I like wine.
- I like both.

Do you prefer red or white wine?

- Neither. I don't like wine.
- I prefer red wine.
- I prefer white wine.

Do you like sweets?

No, I don't like sweets.

Yes, I really like + (*food item*).

- Yes, I really like chocolate cake.
- Yes, I really like tapioca pudding.

Restaurant

Could I get + (*something*)?

- Could I get a table, please?
- Could I get a booth, please?
- Could I get a bottle of red wine, please?

I would like the + (*menu item*), + please.

- I would like the fish and chips, please.
- I would like the lemon-herb roasted chicken, please.

I would like to + (order / have / try) + the + (*menu item*), + please.

- I would like to order the chicken and shrimp, please.
- I would like to have the chicken and shrimp, please.
- I would like to try the tomato basil pasta, please.

Could I + (get / have / try) + the + (*menu item*), + please?

- Could I get the spaghetti and meatballs, please?
- Could I have the four-cheese pasta, please?
- Could I try the jambalaya, please?

I'm allergic to _____.

- I'm allergic to shellfish.
- I'm allergic to peanuts.

Could I get the check, please?

VOCABULARY

Meals

- breakfast
- lunch
- dinner
- brunch (*breakfast + lunch combined*)
- snack

Utensils

- cup
- plate
- knife
- fork
- spoon
- napkin
- toothpick
- chopsticks
- bowl
- glass

Vegetables

- artichokes
- asparagus
- beets
- broccoli
- cabbage
- carrots
- celery
- cucumbers
- eggplant
- green beans
- kale
- lettuce
- mushrooms
- onions
- peas
- peppers
- bell peppers
- hot peppers
- jalapenos
- potatoes
- spinach

- tomatoes
- zucchini

Fruit

- apples
- avocado
- bananas
- berries
 - blackberries
 - blueberries
 - raspberries
 - strawberries
- cherries
- coconut
- kiwis
- lemons
- limes
- oranges
- papayas
- passionfruit
- peaches
- watermelon
- pineapple

Meat

- beef
- buffalo
- chicken
- duck
- goat
- lamb
- pork
- turkey

Seafood

- fish
 - salmon
 - cod
 - trout
 - tilapia
- calamari
- clams
- crab
- lobster
- mussels

- oysters
- scallops
- shrimp

Eggs & Dairy

- butter
- cheese
- cream
- eggs
- milk
- yogurt

Nuts

- almonds
- cashews
- chestnuts
- hazelnuts
- macadamia nuts
- pecans
- pine nuts
- pistachios
- sunflower seeds
- walnuts

Legumes

- black beans
- chickpeas
- kidney beans
- lentils
- lima beans
- mung beans
- soybeans

Grains

- barley
- buckwheat
- corn
- oats
- rice
- rye
- wheat

Oils

- vegetable oil (*general term*)

- almond oil
- canola oil
- coconut oil
- corn oil
- olive oil
- palm oil
- safflower oil
- sesame oil
- sunflower oil

Seasonings

- cayenne
- cinnamon
- coriander
- cumin
- garlic
- ginger
- nutmeg
- oregano
- pepper
- turmeric

Condiments

- BBQ sauce
- dip
- fish sauce
- hot sauce
- hummus
- jam
- jelly
- ketchup
- mustard
- parmesan cheese
- peanut butter
- salsa
- salt
- sauce
- soy sauce
- spread
- wasabi

Appetizers

- bread
- breadsticks
- chicken wings

- chili
- clam chowder
- mozzarella sticks
- nachos
- salad
- soup

American Entrees

- BLT (bacon, lettuce, tomato)
- cheeseburger
- chicken-fried steak
- fajitas
- fried chicken
- hamburger
- lasagna
- macaroni and cheese
- pizza
- pot roast
- ribs
- spaghetti
- steak
- tacos

Degree of Doneness

- rare
- medium rare
- medium
- medium well
- well done

Drinks

- coffee
 - regular
 - espresso
 - cappuccino
- hot chocolate
- juice
 - orange
 - apple
 - grape
- milkshakes
 - chocolate
 - vanilla
 - strawberry
- soft drinks

- Coke
- Diet Coke
- Pepsi
- Sprite
- Mountain Dew
- Dr Pepper
- Fanta
- tea
 - iced tea
 - Earl Grey tea
 - green tea
 - lemon tea
- water
 - ice
 - hot

Beer

- ale
- cider
- IPA
- lager
- stout

Wine

- dessert
- red
- rose
- sparkling
- white

Alcohol

- Baileys
- bourbon
- cosmopolitan
- daiquiri
- gin
- Jägermeister
- martini
- rum
- sake
- scotch
- tequila
- vodka
- whiskey

Desserts

- brownies
- cake
 - chocolate
 - German chocolate
 - carrot
 - cheesecake
- cookies
 - chocolate chip
 - oatmeal
 - peanut butter
- frozen yogurt
- ice cream
 - banana split
 - hot fudge sundae
 - chocolate
 - vanilla
 - mint chip
 - strawberry
- pie
 - apple
 - cherry
 - pumpkin
- pudding
 - chocolate
 - tapioca

CONVERSATION

Talking About Food

Are you hungry?

Yes, I'm starving.

Do you want to go out to eat?

Right now?

Yeah.

I'm waiting for a call. It shouldn't be more than 5 minutes. Is that OK?

No worries, I can wait.

Where are you thinking of eating?

There's a good Indian restaurant. Do you like Indian food?

No, I don't like Indian food. It upsets my stomach.

What about that diner across the street?

I love that place! Have you ever had their Brunswick stew?

No, I haven't. I usually get their roast beef sandwich. What's in the stew?

Tomatoes, lima beans, corn, potatoes, chicken, and bits of bacon.

That sounds delicious! Have you tried their apple pie?

No, I haven't. I don't usually eat sweets.

Their pie is really good. It's gluten-free and they use honey instead of sugar.

Sometimes I splurge and get their passionfruit frozen yogurt.

(the phone rings) Could you give me just a minute?

6

DESCRIBING FOOD

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

It smells + (*adjective*).

- It smells delicious.
- It smells horrible.

It looks + (*adjective*).

- It looks tasty!
- It looks delicious!

How does it taste?

It tastes + (*adjective*).

- It tastes delicious.
- It tastes salty.
- It tastes oily.

How is it?

- Not bad.
- It's good.
- It's tasty.
- It's sour.

Is it _____?

Is it OK?

Is it crispy?

- A little bit.
- No, it's mushy.

VOCABULARY

Temperature

- frozen
- cold
- warm
- hot

Preparation Method

- baked
- breaded
- fermented
- fried
- glazed
- grilled
- marinated
- roasted
- sautéed
- smoked

Appearance

- raw
- uncooked
- undercooked
- overcooked
- burnt
- rotten

Smell

- savory
- fresh
- sweet
- fragrant
- strong
- odorless
- foul
- awful
- rancid

Taste

- bitter

- dry
- flat
- juicy
- moist
- oily
- rich
- salty
- sour
- spicy
- sweet

Texture

- chewy
- crispy
- crunchy
- doughy
- flaky
- fluffy
- gooey
- greasy
- melted
- mushy
- slimy
- sticky

Health

- diabetic
- fattening
- full of sugar
- healthy
- unhealthy
- vegan
- vegetarian

Popular Ethnic Cuisines

- American
- Brazilian
- Chinese
- French
- Indian
- Italian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Mexican
- Thai

CONVERSATION

Food Arrives at Your Table

That smells delicious!

Yeah, it looks tasty.

How is it?

It's really good.

Is it crispy?

No, it's flaky.

What's in it?

It looks like potatoes and green peas with Indian spices.

How does it taste?

It tastes delicious. It's almost like seasoned mashed potatoes. Have you ever had a samosa before?

No, I haven't.

You should get one next time. They're good. How's your curry?

It's very thick and creamy.

Mine's a little runny .

Is it OK?

Oh, yeah. I prefer it that way. I don't like thick sauces.

The sauce is great, but the chicken is a little chewy. Are you going to order any dessert?

I might. What about you?

Yeah, I'm going to get some gulab juman with ice cream.

What is that?

It's like a deep-fried milk ball coated with sugar.

That sounds good.

It's delicious, especially with ice cream.

Yeah, I don't really like sweets, so I think I'll pass on dessert.

7

NATIONALITIES

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

(He / she / it) is from + (*country name*).

- He's from Brazil.
- She's from Italy.

(He / she / it) is + (*nationality*).

- She's Brazilian.
- It's German.

It's a/an + (*adjective*) + (*object*).

- It's a Russian dish.
- It's an Australian shepherd.

It was made in + (*location*).

- It was made in China.
- It was made in Germany.

VOCABULARY

Adjective - Noun

- African - Africa
- American – the United States
- Argentine - Argentina
- Australian - Australia
- Brazilian - Brazil
- British - Britain
- Canadian - Canada
- Catalan – Catalonia (*Spain*)
- Chinese - China
- English - England
- French - France
- German - Germany
- Indian - India
- Italian – Italy
- Japanese - Japan
- Korean - Korea
- Mexican - Mexico
- Russian - Russia
- Spanish - Spain
- Taiwanese - Taiwan
- Thai – Thailand

CONVERSATION

Purchasing International Products

Where is their manufacturing plant located?

It's located in Shenzhen, China.

Silly question, but is it a Chinese company?

Yes.

How are their prices?

They're very competitive.

What about the other company?

The other company is a Japanese company. Their manufacturing plant is in Akita, Japan.

Which company do think will be the best for us?

It's a tough choice. The Japanese company is famous, but they seem very busy. I don't know if they will be able to handle our order. The Chinese company is highly efficient. Plus, I really like their customer service.

Is shipping from Japan to the US cheaper or more expensive than shipping from China to the US?

It's about the same.

OK, I'll let you decide which company to go with.

8

WORK

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

What do you do?

- I'm an admin. assistant.
- I'm a student.
- I'm a stay-at-home dad.
- I'm unemployed at the moment.

What + (kind / type / sort) + of work do you do?

What sort of work do you do?

- I'm a paralegal.
- I'm a factory worker.
- I'm a stay-at-home mom.
- I'm between jobs.

What department do you work in?

I work in the + (*department name*) + department.

- I work in the finance department.
- I work in the HR department.

Where do you work at?

I work at + (*name of the company*).

- I work at Tesla.
- I work at Apple.

How long have you been working there?

I have been working there for + (*number*) + (months / years).

- I have been working there for 2 years.

- I've been working there for 10 months.

I have been working there since + (*month, year*).

- I have been working there since 2016.
- I've been working there since April.

What are you working on?

I'm working on + (*task or project*).

- I'm working on next year's budget.
- I'm working on my presentation.

What's the most challenging part of your work?

I would have to say _____ is the most challenging part of my job.

- I would have to say managing people is the most challenging part of my job.
- I would have to say debugging other people's code is the most challenging part of my job.

What's the work environment like?

It's _____.

- It's fast-paced and stressful at times.
- It's laid-back and relaxed.

How are your colleagues?

They're _____.

- They're very nice. We get along really well.
- They're a little gossipy, but overall, they're good.

CONVERSATION

Talking about Work

What sort of work do you do?

I'm a HR manager.

Oh, nice. Where do you work?

I work at Bayer.

The pharmaceutical company?

Yep.

Oh, nice. How long have you been working there?

I've been working there for 12 years.

Wow! You've been there for a long time.

Yeah, time flies when you're having fun!

Yeah, definitely. What's the work environment like at Bayer?

It's actually a lot of fun. I have a very stressful job, but luckily, I have a great team.

That's fantastic! Most people seem to hate their job.

Tell me about it!

9

ADVICE

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

Asking for Advice

Do you have any advice for _____?

Do you have any advice for me?

I would say _____.

- I would say think carefully before making any hasty decisions.
- I would say bite the bullet and do what you gotta do.

The best advice I could give you is _____.

- The best advice I could give you is to be honest.
- The best advice I could give you is to be diplomatic. You don't want to burn any bridges.

What do you think I should do?

I think you should + (*present tense verb*) + _____.

- I think you should talk to your manager.
- I think you should sleep on it before making a decision.

What would you do if you were me?

If I were you, I would _____.

- If I were you, I would send them an email.
- If I were you, I would talk to + (him / her / them) + about it.
- If I were you, I would submit my résumé to several potential employers.

What do you think?

I think it would be best if _____.

- I think it would be best if we booked a hotel in the city before making plans.
- I think it would be best if we eat first before we go to the museum.

How do I go about doing that?

The best way would be to + _____.

- The best way would be to contact them directly.
- The best way would be to ignore them.

CONVERSATION

Asking for Career Advice

I'm graduating soon, and I'm wondering if you have any advice you could give me?

Have you already found a job?

Not yet.

First you need to get your foot in the door. The best way to do that is to network with people in the industry that you want to work in. What do you want to do?

I would like to work as a consultant at Accenture.

That's a great company. You definitely want to start networking if you haven't already.

How do I go about doing that?

You can find alumni from your college via LinkedIn and then invite them out for coffee or lunch.

That's a great idea! I never thought about that.

I've interviewed quite a few candidates that took that approach.

Yeah, I'll definitely do that. Since you're an HR manager, do you have any advice for me on interviewing?

The best advice I could give you is to be confident, but don't be arrogant. If you worked in a team, then talk about the team's efforts and how you contributed. The worst thing you can say is "I", "I", "I". That's a big red flag.

Thank you so much for your wonderful advice!

No problem. I hope it serves you well.

10

FAMILY

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

Relationships

I'm single.

I'm in a relationship.

I'm engaged.

It's complicated.

I'm married.

I'm divorced.

My mom is a widow.

My dad is a widower.

Family Members

I have a son.

I have a daughter.

I have two children.

I'm an only child.

I have two sisters and one brother.

Are you married?

- Yes, I'm married.
- No, I'm not.
- No, I'm divorced.

How long have you been married?

I have been married for + (*number*) + years.

- I have been married for 5 years.
- I've been married for 12 years.

I have been married since + (*month, year*).

- I have been married since 2010.
- I've been married since June.

What does your husband do?

He is + (*profession*).

- He is a shoe salesman.
- He's an auditor.

What does your wife do?

She is + (*profession*).

- She is a doctor.
- She's a stay-at-home mom.

Do you have any children?

- Yes, I do.
- No, I don't.

- Yes, I have 2 children. I have a boy and a girl.

How old is your son?

- I don't have a son.
- My son is 5 years old.
- He's 11.

How old is your daughter?

- I don't have a daughter.
- My daughter is 8 years old.
- She's 3.

Do you have any brothers or sisters?

- No, I don't. I'm an only child.
- Yes, I do. I have a brother and a sister.
- Yes, I have 3 brothers and 2 sisters.

Where does your family live?

- My family lives in Orlando.
- They live in New York.
- My sister lives in Seattle.

VOCABULARY

Relationship Status

- single
- in a relationship
- separated
- divorced
- married
- widow
- widower

Significant Other

- boyfriend
- husband
- fiancé
- girlfriend
- wife
- fiancée
- partner (gender neutral)

Past Significant Other

- ex-boyfriend
- ex-husband
- ex-girlfriend
- ex-wife
- former partner (*gender neutral*)

Family Members

- son
- daughter
- mother (*mama*)
- father (*daddy*)
- brother (*sibling*)
- sister (*sibling*)
- niece
- nephew
- grandma
- grandpa
- great-grandmother
- great-grandfather
- ancestor
- godfather

- godmother
- uncle
- aunt
- cousin
- my mother-in-law
- my father-in-law

Family Situation

- orphan
- adopted
- foster child
- foster home
- foster parents

Children

- baby
- toddler
- kid
- child
- children
- pre-teen
- teenager (*adolescent*)
- grandchild
- grandchildren
- twins

Wedding

- bride
- groom
- maid of honor
- bridesmaid
- best man
- groomsmen

CONVERSATION

Talking about Family

Are you married?

Yes, I am.

How long have been married?

I've been married for 8 years.

That's fantastic! What's your secret?

Patience, a lot of patience!

What does your husband do?

He's a teacher.

Do you have any children?

Yes, I do. I have a son.

How old is he?

He's 8 years old.

That's a fun age. What's his name?

His name is Jay. What about you? Do you have any children?

No, I don't have any children. My wife and I decided not to have children for financial reasons.

Yeah, raising children isn't cheap. What does your wife do?

She is a biologist.

Nice! Do you have any brothers or sisters?

No, I'm an only child. But my wife has one brother and three sisters.
What about you?

I had a sister, but she passed away a long time ago. Does your family live here in Vancouver?

No. My mom and dad are separated. My mother lives in Michigan and my dad lives in California.

11

PETS

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

I have + (*description*).

- I have a dog.
- I have two cats.

I don't have + (*description*).

- I don't have any pets.
- I don't have a dog, but I do have a cat.

I love my + (*pet*) + so much.

- I love my cat so much.
- I love my dogs so much.

My + (*pets*) + are my life.

- My dogs are my life.
- My pets are my life.

VOCABULARY

Domestic

- dog
- cat
- fish
- bird
- snake
- monkey

Dog Breeds

- bulldog
- Lab (Labrador retriever)
- German shepherd
- golden retriever
- poodle
- Pomeranian
- Chihuahua
- pug
- Maltese
- terrier

Cat Breeds

- shorthair
- longhair
- Persian
- Maine coon
- Siamese
- ragdoll
- Bengal
- Siberian
- Bombay

Young Animals

- baby
- puppy (*dog*)
- kitten (*cat*)

Describing Animals

- adorable
- curious

- cute
- fearless
- feral
- forgiving
- friendly
- fuzzy
- gentle
- loyal
- mixed
- mutt
- obedient
- playful
- protective
- quiet
- shaggy
- smart
- stray
- vicious

Animal Sounds

- dog
 - barks
 - whines
 - growls
 - howls
- cat
 - hisses
 - purrs
 - meows
- bird
 - chirps
 - sings
- horse
 - neighs
- pig
 - oinks
- cow
 - moos
- chicken
 - clucks
- snake
 - hisses
 - rattles (rattlesnakes)

CONVERSATION

Talking about Pets

Do you have any pets?

Yeah, I have a dog and a cat.

What kind of cat do you have?

I have a Bombay cat.

What does she look like?

She's solid black with yellowish eyes.

What's her name?

Molly.

How old is Molly?

She's 4 months old.

Ahh, a little kitten. How cute!

Yeah, she's very playful and affectionate.

Aw, how cute! What about your dog?

He's an 8-year-old mutt.

How big is he?

He's medium-sized. He's about 12 to 15 kg.

What does he look like?

He has black and brown fur and floppy ears. He kind of looks like a lab.

What's he like?

He's very lazy. He just eats and sleeps all day.

Sounds like my husband!

And what about you? Do you have any pets?

Yeah, I have a dog.

What breed?

He's a terrier mix.

How precious! What's his name?

Happy!

What a great name!

Yeah, it's perfect for him. He's a very happy-go-lucky kind of dog.

Where did you get him?

We got him from a rescue in China.

Oh, wow!

What about you? Where did you get your dog?

He was a stray.

That was nice of you to adopt him.

Yeah, I felt sorry for the poor guy. He was in rough shape when we found him.

12

DESCRIBING PEOPLE

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

(He / she) + is + (*description*).

- He's very handsome.
- She's hardworking and intelligent.

(They / we) + are + (*description*).

- They are both very charismatic.
- We are both ambitious.

What does + (he / she) + look like?

What does she look like?

(He / she) + is + (*description*).

- She is beautiful.
- She is tall and thin.

(He / she) + has + (*description*).

- She has long brown hair.
- He has a great personality.

VOCABULARY

Age

- young
- middle-aged
- old
- ... in (his / her / their) + (20s, 30s, etc.)
 - in her 20s
 - in their 50s
- ... in (his / her / their) + (early / mid / late) + (20s, 30s, etc.)
 - in her early 30s
 - in their mid-60s
 - in their late 50s

Overall Appearance

- gorgeous
- beautiful
- handsome
- attractive
- good-looking
- cute
- so-so
- ugly

Height

- tall
- medium-height
- short

Weight

- thin
- athletic
- curvy
- heavy-set
- fat
- obese

Head

- hair
- eyebrows
- eyes

- nose
- mouth
- teeth
- tongue
- lips
- cheeks
- chin
- ears

Facial Hair

- clean-shaven
- stubble (5 o'clock shadow)
- mustache
- beard
- goatee

Hair

- bald
- balding
- short
- medium-length
- long
- thin
- thick
- soft
- curly
- straight
- wavy
- coily

Hair Color

- black
- blonde
- brown (*brunette*)
- grey
- red
- white

Eyes

- blue eyes
- brown eyes
- hazel eyes
- green eyes
- grey eyes

Body

- freckle
- mole (*beauty mark*)
- piercing
- eyebrow piercing
- lip piercing
- tongue piercing
- nose ring
- nipple piercing
- scar
- tattoo

Skin

- ebony (*black*)
- dark brown
- medium brown
- light brown
- olive
- white
- pink
- with warm undertones
- with cool undertones
- with olive undertones
- with pink undertones
- with red undertones
- with yellow undertones

Positive Personality Characteristics

- ambitious
- articulate
- calm
- charismatic
- charming
- cheerful
- confident
- courteous
- creative
- curious
- decisive
- dedicated
- diligent
- down-to-earth
- empathetic
- fair
- focused

- genuine
- hardworking
- helpful
- humble
- intelligent
- intuitive
- patient
- persistent
- popular
- practical
- punctual
- reliable
- witty

Neutral Personality Characteristics

- casual
- competitive
- conservative
- determined
- emotional
- formal
- frank
- frugal
- impartial
- intense
- lenient
- liberal
- mellow
- non-competitive
- predictable
- quiet
- religious
- self-conscious
- shy
- strict
- unpredictable
- stubborn
- solitary
- skeptical
- reserved

Negative Personality Characteristics

- aloof
- angry
- careless
- cold
- crazy
- critical
- cynical
- deceitful
- dramatic
- dull
- fickle
- grumpy
- ignorant
- impatient
- indecisive
- lazy
- malicious
- mean
- messy
- moody
- naïve
- narcissistic
- opinionated
- slow
- timid

CONVERSATION

Talking about a Recent Date

What does she look like?

She is beautiful! She's short and thin. She has medium-length, wavy, brown hair and big brown eyes.

Is she Canadian?

No, she's American.

How short is she?

She's about 164 or 165 centimeters tall.

How old is she?

She's in her mid-20s.

What does she do?

She works as an engineering consultant.

She must be pretty smart.

Oh yeah, she's very intelligent and down-to-earth.

Nice.

Yeah, she's amazing!

Does she have any tattoos or piercings?

Yeah, she has a sun tattoo on her lower back.

That's a red flag. You can't trust a girl with a lower back tattoo!

That's funny! Her tattoo is pretty neat.

I'm just joking. Does she have any brothers or sisters?

She had an older brother, but he passed away in a car accident.

Oh, geez. How long ago did that happen?

She didn't say. I think that's still a sensitive subject for her, so I didn't ask her what happened.

13

EMOTIONS

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

General

I feel like _____.

- I feel like doing something.
- I feel like going to a movie.
- I feel like I need a break.

I don't feel like _____.

- I don't feel like it.
- I don't feel like I'm valued at work.
- I don't feel like I'm improving.

How do you feel?

I feel + (-ed adjective).

- I feel bored.
- I feel frustrated.
- I feel excited!

How was it?

It was + (-ing adjective).

- It was boring.
- It was frustrating.
- It was exciting!

What did you think of it?

I thought it was + (description).

- I thought it was entertaining.
- I thought it was disappointing.

What's the matter?

Nothing. I'm fine.

I just found out + (*bad news*).

- I just found out my boyfriend cheated on me.
- I just found out my dog died.

Bereavement

My _____ passed away.

- My husband passed away.
- My mother passed away.
- My co-worker passed away.

Expressing Sympathy

My condolences.

We're thinking of you.

I'm so sorry to hear that.

Our deepest condolences.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

VOCABULARY

Positive Emotions

- affectionate
- cheerful
- comfortable
- compassionate
- confident
- delighted
- ecstatic
- empathetic
- energetic
- enthusiastic
- excited
- glad
- happy
- hopeful
- inspired
- loving
- motivated
- optimistic
- passionate
- proud
- relieved
- satisfied
- secure
- sympathetic
- thrilled

Neutral Emotions

- ambivalent
- apologetic
- cautious
- detached
- distracted
- exhausted
- puzzled
- shaky
- shy
- startled
- surprised
- tense
- thoughtful
- timid
- unsure

Negative Emotions

- afraid
- angry
- annoyed
- anxious
- ashamed
- awkward
- bitter
- bored
- confused
- depressed
- desperate
- disappointed
- embarrassed
- fearful
- frustrated
- guilty
- helpless
- impatient
- jealous
- lonely
- miserable
- nervous
- pessimistic
- sad
- scared
- shocked
- uneasy
- unhappy
- worried

CONVERSATION

A Death in the Family

What's the matter?

Nothing. I was just thinking about my great-grandmother. She passed away last month.

I'm sorry to hear that. My condolences.

Thank you.

It's difficult when someone we love passes.

Yes, it is. I'm still a little sad and depressed.

I would be, too. What was she like?

She was so happy and cheerful all the time. She was always smiling and laughing. She was so passionate about life and it was contagious.

It sounds like she was an amazing person.

She was. She was such an inspiration to everyone.

14

CELEBRATIONS / HOLIDAYS

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

Common Phrases

Congratulations!

Happy Birthday!

Happy New Year!

Happy Holidays!

Happy Halloween!

Merry Christmas!

I got promoted!

We're getting married!

I'm pregnant!

We're having a baby!

I won!

We won!

Holidays

What's your favorite holiday?

My favorite holiday is + (*holiday*), + because + (*reason*).

- My favorite holiday is Christmas, because I get to spend time with my family.
- My favorite holiday is New Year's, because it's the beginning of a new chapter.

When is it?

It's on + (*date*).

- It's on December 25th.
- It's on January 1st.

It starts on + (*date*), + and it ends on + (*date*).

- It starts on July 1st, and it ends on July 4th.
- It starts on August 15th, and it ends on August 23rd.

How long does it last?

It lasts for + (*number*) + days.

- It lasts for 1 day.
- It lasts for 3 days.

How do you celebrate?

We celebrate it by + (*gerund*) + _____.

- We celebrate it by having a big meal with our entire family.
- We celebrate it by having a big party.

VOCABULARY

American Holidays

- New Year's Eve – December 31st
- New Year's Day – January 1st
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Third Monday in January
- Memorial Day – Last Monday in May
- Independence Day – July 4th
- Labor Day – First Monday in September
- Veterans Day – November 11th
- Thanksgiving – Fourth Thursday in November
- Christmas Eve – December 24th
- Christmas Day – December 25th

CONVERSATION

Recent Promotion

Guess what?

What?

I got promoted!

Congratulations!

Thank you!

What did you get promoted to?

I got promoted to project manager.

That's great news! I know you have been wanting to be a manager for a long time now. I'm excited for you!

Thank you! Yeah, I'm really excited. We're going out for drinks to celebrate. You should come.

When?

After work, tonight at the bar across the street.

Awesome, I'll be there!

15

FREE TIME

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

What do you like to do after work?

I like + (*infinitive*) + _____.

- I like to go to the gym after work.
- I like to take a nap.

I like + (*gerund*) + _____.

- I like going to the gym after work.
- I like taking a nap.

What do you enjoy doing?

I enjoy + (*gerund*) + _____.

- I enjoy spending time with my family.
- I enjoy running.

What do you like to do on the weekends?

On the weekends, I like + (*1st activity*) + and + (*2nd activity*).

- On the weekends, I like running and watching movies.
- On the weekends, I like studying and relaxing at home.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like + (*1st activity*), + (*2nd activity*), + and + (*3rd activity*).

- I like reading, cooking, and watching series.
- I like playing video games, doing yoga, and hiking.

Do you like + (*activity*)?

- Do you like running?
- Do you like hiking?
- Do you like swimming?

No, I don't like running.

Yes, I like hiking.

VOCABULARY

Activities

- cooking
- doing
 - doing yoga
- going
 - going out to eat
 - going shopping
 - going to museums
 - going to the gym
 - going to the movies
- listening
 - listening to music
- playing
 - playing guitar
 - playing the drums
 - playing sports
 - playing video games
 - playing with my kids
- reading
- relaxing
- sleeping
- spending time with
 - spending time with my family
 - spending time with my friends
- studying
- volunteering
- watching
 - watching movies
 - watching Netflix
 - watching TV
 - watching series

Beach Activities

- BBQing
- bodyboarding
- laying out in the sun
- making sand castles
- partying
- people watching

- playing in the sand
- playing soccer
- playing volleyball
- SCUBA diving
- snorkelling
- sport fishing
- surfing
- swimming
- windsurfing

Outdoor Activities (warm weather)

- cycling
- hiking
- mountain biking
- rock climbing
- bird watching
- fishing
- rafting
- running
- kayaking

Outdoor Activities (cold weather)

- cross-country skiing
- ice fishing
- ice skating
- skiing
- sledding
- snowboarding
- snowshoeing

CONVERSATION

Leisure Time

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like reading novels, listening to music, and spending time with my family.

What do you and your family do?

We like watching Netflix, playing video games, and going to the beach.

What do you do at the beach?

My kids play soccer, and my wife and I just lay out in the sun. Sometimes we'll swim if the water is warm enough.

Do you like snorkeling or SCUBA diving?

I like them both, but SCUBA diving is expensive, so I don't do it too often.

I love snorkeling, but I'm afraid of SCUBA diving.

Yeah, it can be very dangerous.

What do you do after work?

I usually listen to podcasts because I have a 2-hour commute.

Wow! Two hours is a long time.

Yeah, traffic is terrible in my city.

16

SPORTS

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

Do you play any sports?

No, I don't.

I + (play / do / go) + (activity).

- I play soccer.
- I do yoga.
- I go swimming.

How long have you been playing?

I've been playing for _____.

- I've been playing for 3 years.
- I've been playing for a couple of months.

Do you watch any sports?

Only during special occasions like the Olympics or the World Cup.

Yes, I do. I watch + (sport).

- Yes, I do. I watch basketball.
- Yes, I do. I watch soccer.

Who is your favorite team?

- I don't have a favorite team.
- My favorite team is the Golden State Warriors.
- Real Madrid.

Who is your favorite player?

- It's hard to say.

- My favorite player is Stephen Curry.
- Nacho is my favorite player.

Which sport is the most popular in your country?

The most popular sport is + (*sport*).

- The most popular sport is football.
- The most popular sport is badminton.

The most popular sports are + (*1st sport*) + and + (*2nd sport*)

- The most popular sports are badminton and basketball.
- The most popular sports are football and beach volleyball.

VOCABULARY

General

- ball
- championship
- competition
- finish
- finish line
- game
- gym
- league
- lose
- medal
- point
- record
- score
- stadium
- team
- tournament
- trophy
- uniform
- win

Participants

- athlete
- captain
- champion
- coach
- crowd
- opponent
- player
- referee
- rookie
- umpire

Sports

- American football
- badminton
- baseball
- basketball
- boxing
- golf
- hockey

- Brazilian jiu-jitsu
- soccer (*football*)
- swimming
- tennis
- volleyball
- wrestling

CONVERSATION

World Cup

When is the next World Cup?

It's in 2022.

Where is it going to be held?

It's going to be held in Qatar.

How many teams will be competing?

Thirty-two, but starting in 2026, forty-eight teams will be playing. Although recently, FIFA said the forty-eight-team expansion could happen at Qatar 2022.

How many players are on each team?

There are eleven players on each team.

How are the teams chosen?

They have a series of tournaments to decide which 31 teams will play. The host team, in this case Qatar, is automatically qualified.

What's the format of the tournament?

There is the group stage where the teams are split into eight groups with four teams in each group. Each team plays the other 3 teams in a round-robin format. The two teams with the highest points at the end move to the knockout rounds. In the knockout rounds, the team that loses is out of the tournament.

How long are the matches?

There are two 45-minute halves, so matches last 90 minutes plus any overtime.

Only the goalie can use their hands, right?

Right. Haven't you played soccer before?

**I'm American. We don't play soccer. Well, at least I didn't as a kid.
Things might have changed now.**

Fair enough.

17

MOVIES

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

Common Phrases

It's based on a book.

It's a true story.

It's a classic.

The special effects were amazing!

I absolutely love the soundtrack!

I'll have to check it out.

The trailer looked good.

American movies nowadays are terrible.

It was directed by + (*director's name*).

- It was directed by Steven Spielberg.
- It was directed by Quentin Tarantino.

(*Actor's name*) + plays + (*main character's name*) + the main character.

- Tom Hanks plays Forest Gump, the main character.
- Christian Bale plays Batman, the main character.

Do you like watching movies?

- Yes, I like watching movies.
- No, I don't like watching movies.

Do you have a favorite actor or actress?

- Not really.
- Yeah, I really like Tom Hardy.

- I like Meryl Streep.

What kind of movies do you like to watch?

I like to watch _____.

- I like to watch horror movies.
- I like to watch comedies.

What's your favorite movie?

I don't really have a favorite movie.

My favorite movie is + (*movie name*).

- My favorite movie is *The Shining* .
- My favorite movie is *Donnie Darko* .

One of my favorite movies is + (*movie name*).

- One of my favorite movies is *IT* .
- One of my favorite movies is *Jurassic Park* .

A few of my favorite movies include + (*multiple movies*), and + (*last movie*).

- A few of my favorite movies include *A League of Their Own* , *The Sandlot* , and *Forrest Gump* .
- A few of my favorite movies include *Terminator 2* , *Avatar* , *Godfather* , and *Scarface* .

What's it about?

It's about _____.

- It's about a writer that goes crazy.
- It's about a theme park with dinosaurs.

What did you like about it?

- It had a very interesting plot.
- I liked the special effects.
- It was unpredictable.

What was the most memorable scene?

There were several.

The most memorable scene was when + (noun or pronoun) + (verb) + _____.

- The most memorable scene was when Forrest Gump jumped off his boat, swam to the dock, and greeted his friend, Lt. Dan. Gump's boat crashes into another dock and Forest says, "That's my boat."
- The most memorable scene was when Jack let go of the driftwood and sunk to the bottom of the ocean.

What I didn't understand was + (question word) + (noun or pronoun) + (verb) + _____.

- What I didn't understand was why Rose threw the Heart of the Ocean into the ocean.
- What I didn't understand was why men wore those ridiculous wigs in *The Favourite* .

Have you seen any good movies lately?

No, not really.

Yeah, actually. I just saw + (recent movie).

- Yeah, actually. I just saw *Bohemian Rhapsody* .
- Yeah, actually. I just saw *Gone With The Wind* for the 1st time.

How was it?

It was _____.

- It was OK.
- It was exciting.
- It was funny.

VOCABULARY

General

- actor
- actress
- director
- writer
- producer
- cinematography
- special effects
- soundtrack / score
- reviews
- plot
- credits
- previews
- film
- scene
- screenplay
- trailer

Genres

- action
- adventure
- anime
- comedy
- crime
- documentary
- drama
- horror
- independent
- kids / family
- LGBTQ
- musical
- romance
- science fiction (sci-fi)
- sports
- thriller

Positive Descriptions

- enjoyable
- entertaining
- eye-opening
- funny

- interesting
- marvelous
- moving
- original
- powerful
- surprising
- terrific
- wonderful
- Oscar-winning

Neutral Descriptions

- fast-moving
- long
- OK
- romantic
- sad
- sentimental
- slow
- weird

Negative Descriptions

- awful
- bloody
- boring
- depressing
- disappointing
- disgusting
- gory
- predictable
- silly
- violent

CONVERSATION

Talking about Movies

What's your favorite movie of all time?

My favorite movie of all time is *Forrest Gump* .

I still haven't seen that.

What? You've never seen *Forest Gump* ?

No.

You have to watch it. It's a classic.

What's it about exactly?

It's about a man with a low IQ that does amazing things in his life.

It has Tom Hanks in it, right?

Yep. He plays Forrest Gump. He won an Oscar for best actor.

What was so great about it?

It was just such a great story. It was inspiring and original. The acting was fantastic. The soundtrack was very moving. You just have to see it.

Yeah, I'll have to check it out. Have you seen *City of God* ?

No, I haven't. Is it good?

Yes, it's fantastic.

What's it about?

It's about a young boy who wants to be a photographer in Brazil. He takes pictures of the violence in Rio.

Is it a drama?

Yes.

That sounds interesting.

Yeah, it was a very powerful and eye-opening movie.

18

TV / SERIES

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

I haven't seen it, yet.

You'll have to see it.

I don't want to ruin it for you.

This is the best time in history for quality TV shows.

I like finding a new series and bingeing on it all weekend.

Do you watch TV?

- Once in a great while.
- Yeah, it's one of my favorite pastimes.

Do you have Netflix?

- No, I don't have Netflix.
- Of course, I have Netflix.

What kind of shows do you watch?

I watch _____.

- I watch sitcoms.
- I watch reality shows.

Do you like reality shows?

- Yes, I love reality shows.
- It depends on the show.
- No, I hate them. They aren't educational.

What's your favorite show?

I really like _____.

- I really like *The Big Bang Theory* .
- I really like *Game of Thrones* .

What kind of show is it?

It's a/an _____.

- It's a sitcom.
- It's an American fantasy drama series.

What's it about?

It's about _____.

- It's about two physicists that struggle with social situations.
- It's about a power struggle in a fictional world.

Why do you like it?

Because it's _____.

- Because it's really funny and educational at times, too.
- Because it's very exciting and unpredictable.

Who is your favorite character?

My favorite character is _____.

- My favorite character is Howard.
- My favorite character is Arya.

Why is + (she / he) + your favorite?

Why is he your favorite?

Why is she your favorite?

Because + (she / he) + _____.

- Because he can do really good impressions of other people.
- Because her story is so interesting. Revenge is on her mind, and she goes to great lengths to get it.

What was your favorite episode?

The one where + (noun or pronoun) + (verb) + _____.

- The one where Chapo finally gets extradited to the US.
- The one where Saul beats his brother in front of the state bar committee.

What was the best scene?

The best scene was when + (noun or pronoun) + (verb) + _____.

- The best scene was when Eleven ate her first Pop Tart.
- The best scene was when Elon Musk was looking at Sheldon Cooper's notes.

Did you watch the new + (show) + episode, yet?

Did you watch the new *Game of Thrones* episode yet?

- No, not yet. Don't say anything. I want to watch it.
- Yeah, it wasn't what I was expecting.
- Yes! It was fantastic!

What did you think of it?

I thought _____.

- I thought it was weird.
- I thought it was the best episode so far.

Which service do you use to watch TV series?

I use _____.

- I use Amazon Prime.
- I use Netflix.

VOCABULARY

General

- binge watch
- canceled
- cast
- channel
- episode
- network
- renewed
- season
- spoiler
- streaming

Genres

- action
- anime
- docuseries
- drama
- family show
- game show
- miniseries
- news
- reality show
- sci-fi & fantasy
- sitcom
- soap opera
- stand-up
- talk show
- teen

Descriptions

- brilliant
- cerebral
- dramatic
- family-friendly
- futuristic
- goofy
- heart-wrenching
- hilarious
- in-depth
- intense

- must-see
- raunchy
- realistic
- suspenseful
- unexpected
- unforgettable
- unrealistic
- well-paced

CONVERSATION

Game of Thrones

Did you see the new *Game of Thrones* episode?

Oh my God, yes! It was fantastic!

I know, right?

I have a feeling that this season is going to be amazing.

I hope so. I kind of felt like the last season was a little rushed.

You think so?

Yeah, the first three seasons were too slow, and I felt like the last season was too fast.

I can see that. What are some of your favorite scenes?

I have so many. Hmm, I would have to say when Arya fights Brienne.

I loved that scene! “*Who taught you how to fight? No one.*”

Yeah, I loved the Faceless Man character.

Me too. The whole cast has been amazing.

What was your favorite *Game of Thrones* episode?

That's a tough question. I would have to say the 4th episode in Season 7 when Arya and Brienne fight, and of course, when Daenerys finally unleashes her wrath on the Lannisters.

Talk about a build-up! It took six and half seasons to get to that point.

Tell me about it. It was so satisfying, though.

Did you ever read any of the books?

No, I'm not much of a reader.

The books are really good. You should read them.

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MUSIC

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

General

Do you like to listen to music?

- Who doesn't?
- Sometimes.
- Oh yeah, I love music.

What do you like to listen to?

I like to listen to _____.

- I like to listen to all types of music.
- I like to listen to rock.

What do you listen to most often?

I mostly listen to _____.

- I mostly listen to rap.
- I mostly listen to pop.

What do you like to listen to when you are + (*activity or location*)?

- What do you like to listen to when you are working?
- What do you like to listen to when you are at home?

I like to listen to + (*genre or artist*) when I am + (*activity or location*)?

- I like to listen to classical music when I'm working.
- I like to listen to R&B when I'm at home.

Who is one of your favorite bands or singers?

One of my favorite + (bands / singers) + is _____.

- One of my favorite bands is Guns N' Roses.
- One of my favorite singers is Stevie Nicks.

My absolute favorite + (band / singer) + is _____.

- My absolute favorite band is Metallica.
- My absolute favorite singer is Peter Gabriel.

What + (does / do) + (she / he / they) + sound like?

What does she sound like?

What do they sound like?

They sound like + (*artist*).

- She doesn't sound like anyone. She has a unique timbre.
- They sound like a typical hard rock band.

The singer has a/an + (*description*) + voice.

- The singer has a deep voice.
- The singer has a soprano voice.

What do you like about + (him / her / it / them)?

What do you like about her?

What do you like about them?

- She has a very unique and melodic voice.
- Their lyrics are poetic.
- Their music motivates me and makes me feel powerful.

Have you ever heard the song + (song name) + by (artist)?

Have you ever heard the song *Hello* by Adele?

- No, I haven't. Is it good?
- Yes, I love that song!

Have you ever listened to the same song over and over again?

- No. I have to have variety, or I'll get bored.
- Definitely!
- All the time!

What song?

(*song name*) + by + (*artist*). Have you ever heard it?

- *Happy* by Pharrell Williams. Have you ever heard it?
- *Girls Just Want to Have Fun* by Cyndi Lauper. Have you heard it?

Do you go to concerts or festivals?

- No.
- Once in a while.
- Yeah, I go a lot.

What was the best concert or festival that you have ever been to?

_____ was the best concert I have ever been to.

- Pearl Jam was the best concert I have ever been to.
- Ozzfest was the best festival I've ever been to.

Can you sing?

- Not at all.
- Only in the shower.
- Yes, I can sing.

Do you play an instrument?

No.

Yes, I play + (*instrument*).

- Yes, I play the guitar.
- Yes, I play drums.
- Yes, I play the lute.

What is that?

- It's a stringed instrument.
- It's a common instrument in my country.
- It's a famous instrument in my country.

Who are your musical influences?

Oh man, there are so many.

I was born into a musical family.

Some of my musical influences _____.

- Some of my musical influences include bands like CCR, The Eagles, and Tom Petty.
- Some of my musical influences span several genres from classical rock to new wave, 80s pop to glam metal, and grunge to early hip-hop.

VOCABULARY

General

- album
- artist
- background
- band
- choreography
- influences
- instruments
- lyrics
- orchestra
- performance
- recording
- release
- remix
- solo
- studio
- track
- vocal
- volume

Genres

- blues
- classic rock
- classical
- country
- dance
- dubstep
- EDM
- electronic
- folk
- hard rock
- heavy metal
- hip-hop / rap
- indie
- instrumental
- jazz
- new wave
- pop
- R&B
- reggae
- religious

- techno
- trap music
- trance

Elements of Music

- timbre
- melody
- harmony
- dynamics
- texture
- rhythm
- structure
- duration
- instrumentation

Describing Music

- aggressive
- atmospheric
- calm
- catchy
- contemporary
- dark
- dissonant
- emotional
- fun
- funky
- harmonious
- hypnotic
- intense
- light
- loud
- melodic
- relaxing
- timeless
- upbeat

Instruments

- banjo
- bass
- cello
- drums
- flute
- French horn
- guitar
- harmonica

- oboe
- piano
- saxophone
- synthesizer
- triangle
- trumpet
- violin
- vocals
- xylophone

CONVERSATION

Music

What are you listening to?

I'm listening to an old Def Leppard album.

What album?

Pyromania.

Classic. Have you ever been to one of their concerts?

No, I haven't.

They're amazing in concert. If you ever get the chance, you should go.

I don't really like concerts.

How come?

I don't like crowds.

Yeah, I can understand that.

What do you normally listen to?

When I'm at work, I mostly listen to trance or movie soundtracks.

Yeah, I like to listen to that type of music when I'm writing; It helps me focus.

Definitely. Have you listened to the Blade Runner 2049 soundtrack?

No, I haven't.

Oh, man. That's my favorite.

What does it sound like?

It's dark and hypnotic.

I'll have to add that to my playlist.

The Inception soundtrack is really good, too. My favorite track is *Time* . It makes me want to cry listening to it.

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READING

QUESTIONS & PHRASES

General

Do you like reading?

- Not really.
- Yes, I like reading.

What do you like to read?

I like to read _____.

- I like to read romance and murder mysteries.
- I like to read non-fiction like self-help books.

What is your favorite book?

I can't think of one off-hand.

My favorite book is + (*book name*).

- My favorite book is *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry* .
- My favorite book is the 1st Harry Potter.

What's it about?

It's about + (*description*).

- It's about astrophysics.
- It's about a young boy who goes to a school to become a magician.

Who's the author?

(*Name*) + is the author.

- Neil deGrasse Tyson is the author.
- J.K. Rowling is the author.

How often do you read?

- Not as much as I would like.
- I read about two books a month.
- I read almost every day to sharpen my mind.

What is the one book you think everyone should be required to read?

That's a good question. Let me think about it.

Everyone should have to read _____.

- Everyone should have to read *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* .
- Everyone should have to read a book about empathy.

Do you listen to audiobooks?

- No.
- On occasion.
- Yes. I like listening to them on my commute to work.

Do you listen to podcasts?

- No, I prefer watching YouTube videos.
- Sometimes.
- Oh yeah.

Plot

I couldn't put it down.

It had me on the edge of my seat.

I couldn't turn the page fast enough.

There were so many twists and turns.

I thought the story was interesting.

The plot was very predictable.

I thought the story was dull.

I couldn't get into it.

Structure

It's a novel.

It's a novella.

It's a series of short stories.

The book jumped back and forth in time.

The book jumped back and forth among different characters.

The book moved along chronologically, so it was easy to follow.

Characters

I loved the characters.

I didn't like the characters.

I didn't think the characters were convincing.

One of the characters, + (*character's name*), + reminded me of + (*someone*).

- One of the characters, Tony, reminded me of my brother.
- One of the characters, Susan, reminded me of myself.

Ending

The twist at the end was fantastic!

The ending was predictable.

Non-Fiction

I thought the book was insightful.

I learned a lot.

There were a few nuggets of wisdom.

The author didn't provide any evidence to support (his / her) claims.

I read this book called + (*book name*) + by + (*author's name*), where + (he / she / they) + (*verb*) + _____.

- I read this book called *Secrets of the Millionaire Mind* by T. Harv Eker, where he talks about the differences between the rich and the poor and how they think.
- I read this book called *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen Covey, where he talks about being proactive rather than reactive.

VOCABULARY

General

- appendix
- audiobook
- bibliography
- box-set
- chapter
- character
- conflict
- dedication
- dialogue
- ending
- events
- hardback
- line
- motivation
- narrator
- paperback
- paragraph
- passage
- plot
- prologue
- published
- quote
- references
- setting
- storyline
- structure
- table of contents
- theme

Genres

- autobiography
- biography
- crime
- dystopian
- erotica
- fantasy
- fiction
- futuristic
- graphic novel
- horror

- memoir
- non-fiction
- poetry
- romance
- self-help
- thriller

Describing Books

- addictive
- character-driven
- complicated
- confusing
- convincing
- deep
- educational
- evocative
- historical
- insightful
- ironic
- page-turner
- plot-driven
- predictable
- repetitive
- surprising
- thought-provoking

CONVERSATION

Harry Potter

What are you reading?

Harry Potter.

Which book?

The 5th book, the Order of the Phoenix.

I never read that one. What happens in it?

The government of the Wizarding World tries to clamp down on the rumors that Lord Voldemort is back. They try to discredit Harry. Harry saw him in the 4th book, but no one believed him.

Is the book the same as the movie?

No. There was a lot more in the book and the movie felt rushed.

Who's your favorite character?

Probably Hagrid.

Why him?

Because he's a gentle giant and he's really kind.

Have you read all the books?

Yeah.

Are the books chronological or do they jump around in time?

There are some flashbacks, but for the most part, they are chronological.

Why do you like the books so much?

I grew up with the books. I was the same age as the characters.

Why do you think so many other people liked them?

Kids in my generation could relate to the characters and their adolescent struggles.

But why do you think Harry Potter was such a commercial success?

Because people could put themselves in a fantasy world. They could take a break from their everyday lives, if only for a little while.

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GOODBYE

PHRASES

General

Goodbye.

Goodbye.

Have a good day.

You, too.

Have a good evening.

You as well.

Have a good night.

You, too.

It was a pleasure chatting with you.

Likewise.

It was great seeing you.

It was great seeing you, too.

It was great talking to you.

Definitely! We'll have to chat again soon.

Informal

Bye.

See you later.

Talk to you soon.

OK, bye.

Take care.

Yeah, you too.

I have to run.

OK, take care.

See you later.

OK, see ya.

See you soon.

OK, bye.

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